

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

- [S.B. No. 184](#) (Raised) An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of Covid-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot.
- [H.B. No. 5262](#) (Raised) An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.

Hearing: FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Dear Members of the Government and Administrations Election Committee.

I am writing today to ask you to **support SB184 and HB5262**. As much as we would like to be done with Covid, we have no way to tell what the next iteration of Covid will look like. While there is a downward trend of the Omicron variant, BA.2 an Omicron sub variant that spreads 30% more easily. "BA.2 has now been found from coast to coast and accounts for an estimated 3.9% all new infections nationally, [according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). It appears to be doubling fast. "If it doubles again to 8%, that means we're into the exponential growth phase and we may be staring at another wave of COVID-19 coming in the U.S.," says [Samuel Scarpino](#), the manager director of pathogen surveillance at the Rockefeller Foundation." ([NPR](#))

Passing SB182 is truly a public health safety measure. My parents and I all have compromised health and were extremely grateful for the protective measure we had here in CT and I really appreciated being able to vote by absentee ballot using the Covid AB option.

I also support [H.B. No. 5262](#) as it would amend our state statutes regarding the "illness" provision for absentee ballot voting so that it is in line with our CT State Constitution. This would help eliminate any ambiguities that might arise and also in the event of future pandemics or medical emergencies it would enable all registered voters to vote by absentee ballot in case of illness without our state government having to rush to pass last minute legislation. So good to see our legislators trying to be proactive rather than reactive.

With regard to AB voting, I wanted to mention that both my parents and I really loved the new ballot drop boxes.

On a final note, please consider mandating Covid-19 vaccinations for school children, just like we have for polio, mumps and other illnesses. This would go a long way to ensure the safety not just of children but of all of those in our community.

Thank you for supporting voter access to the ballot.

Thank you,
Alisa Trachtenberg
Ridgefield, CT 06877

